



**REPORT OF THE AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS
AUDIT EXAMINATION OF THE
ESTILL COUNTY
FORMER SHERIFF'S SETTLEMENT - 1998 TAXES**

As of January 4, 1999

**EDWARD B. HATCHETT, JR.
AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS
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CONTENTS

PAGE

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT	1
SHERIFF'S SETTLEMENT - 1998 TAXES	3
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT	4
COMMENT AND RECOMMENDATION	9
REPORT ON COMPLIANCE AND ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING BASED ON AN AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS.....	13



Edward B. Hatchett, Jr.
Auditor of Public Accounts

To the People of Kentucky
Honorable Paul E. Patton, Governor
John P. McCarty, Secretary
Finance and Administration Cabinet
Sarah Jane Schaaf, Secretary, Revenue Cabinet
Honorable Dwight Arvin, County Judge/Executive
Honorable Gary Lynn Freeman, Estill County Sheriff
Honorable Philip Becknell, Former Estill County Sheriff
Members of the Estill County Fiscal Court

Independent Auditor's Report

We have audited the former Estill County Sheriff's Settlement - 1998 Taxes as of January 4, 1999. This tax settlement is the responsibility of the former Estill County Sheriff. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial statement based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and the Audit Guide for Sheriff's Tax Settlements issued by the Auditor of Public Accounts, Commonwealth of Kentucky. These standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statement is free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statement. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

The former Sheriff prepares his financial statement on a prescribed basis of accounting that demonstrates compliance with the cash basis and laws of Kentucky, which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than generally accepted accounting principles.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statement referred to above presents fairly, in all material respects, the former Estill County Sheriff's taxes charged, credited, and paid as of January 4, 1999, in conformity with the basis of accounting described in the preceding paragraph.

To the People of Kentucky
Honorable Paul E. Patton, Governor
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Based on the results of our audit, we have presented a schedule of Comment and Recommendation, included herein, which discusses the following area of noncompliance.

- Former Sheriff Should Have Entered Into A Written Agreement To Protect Deposits

In accordance with Government Auditing Standards, we have also issued a report dated June 3, 1999, on our consideration of the Sheriff's compliance with certain laws and regulations and internal control over financial reporting.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ed Hatchett", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Edward B. Hatchett, Jr.
Auditor of Public Accounts

Audit fieldwork completed -
June 3, 1999

ESTILL COUNTY
 PHILIP BECKNELL, FORMER SHERIFF
SHERIFF'S SETTLEMENT - 1998 TAXES

As of January 4, 1999

<u>Charges</u>	<u>County Taxes</u>	<u>Special Taxing Districts</u>	<u>School Taxes</u>	<u>State Taxes</u>
Real Estate	\$ 168,488	\$ 447,916	\$ 764,074	\$ 299,752
Tangible Personal Property	11,654	26,317	43,288	40,593
Intangible Personal Property				113,509
Franchise Corporation	794	1,626	2,976	
Limestone, Sand, and Gravel Bills	98	237	398	156
Additional Billings	46	122	210	82
Omitted Taxes	413	998	1,678	659
Increased Through Erroneous Assessments	286	753	1,296	508
Adjusted to Sheriff's Receipt	<u>1,164</u>	<u>2,696</u>	<u>4,444</u>	<u>751</u>
Gross Chargeable to Sheriff	<u>\$ 182,943</u>	<u>\$ 480,665</u>	<u>\$ 818,364</u>	<u>\$ 456,010</u>
<u>Credits</u>				
Discounts	\$ 2,156	\$ 5,670	\$ 9,644	\$ 6,304
Exonerations	3,788	9,989	17,176	6,738
Charges to Incoming Sheriff	41,442	109,473	186,740	77,012
Uncollected Franchise	<u>771</u>	<u>1,575</u>	<u>2,889</u>	
Total Credits	<u>\$ 48,157</u>	<u>\$ 126,707</u>	<u>\$ 216,449</u>	<u>\$ 90,054</u>
Net Tax Yield	\$ 134,786	\$ 353,958	\$ 601,915	\$ 365,956
Less: Commissions *	<u>6,016</u>	<u>15,043</u>	<u>22,572</u>	<u>15,841</u>
Net Taxes Due	\$ 128,770	\$ 338,915	\$ 579,343	\$ 350,115
Taxes Paid	128,489	338,178	578,052	349,613
Refunds (Current and Prior Year)	<u>275</u>	<u>733</u>	<u>1,255</u>	<u>492</u>
Due Districts as of		**		
Completion of Fieldwork	<u>\$ 6</u>	<u>\$ 4</u>	<u>\$ 36</u>	<u>\$ 10</u>

* Commissions:

10% on	\$	10,000
4.25% on	\$	844,700
3.75% on	\$	601,915

** Special Taxing District:

Library District	<u>\$ 4</u>
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The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statement.

ESTILL COUNTY
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT

As of January 4, 1999

Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

A. Fund Accounting

The Sheriff's tax collection duties are limited to acting as an agent for assessed property owners and taxing districts. A fund is used to account for the collection and distribution of taxes. A fund is a separate accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts. Fund accounting is designed to demonstrate legal compliance and to aid financial management by segregating transactions related to certain government functions or activities.

B. Basis of Accounting

The financial statement has been prepared on a cash basis of accounting. Basis of accounting refers to when charges, credits, and taxes paid are reported in the settlement statement. It relates to the timing of measurements regardless of the measurement focus.

Charges are sources of revenue which are recognized in the tax period in which they become available and measurable. Credits are reductions of revenue which are recognized when there is proper authorization. Taxes paid are uses of revenue which are recognized when distributions are made to the taxing districts and others.

C. Cash and Investments

At the direction of the fiscal court, KRS 66.480 authorizes the Sheriff's office to invest in the following, including but not limited to, obligations of the United States and of its agencies and instrumentalities, obligations and contracts for future delivery or purchase of obligations backed by the full faith and credit of the United States, obligations of any corporation of the United States government, bonds or certificates of indebtedness of this state, and certificates of deposit issued by or other interest-bearing accounts of any bank or savings and loan institution which are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) or which are collateralized, to the extent uninsured, by any obligation permitted by KRS 41.240(4).

Note 2. Deposits

The former Sheriff maintained deposits with depository institutions insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC). According to law, the depository institution should pledge sufficient securities as collateral which, together with FDIC insurance, equals or exceeds the amount on deposit at all times. In order to be valid against the FDIC in the event of failure or insolvency of the depository institution, this pledge of securities should be evidenced by an agreement that is (a) in writing, (b) approved by the board of directors of the depository institution or its loan committee, which approval must be reflected in the minutes of the board or committee, and (c) an official record of the depository institution. This agreement, signed by both parties, must be sufficient to create an enforceable and perfected security interest in the collateral under Kentucky law. The depository institution had made such a pledge, and the depository institution's board of directors or loan committee approved the pledge. However, the depository institution did not have a written agreement with the former Sheriff.

ESTILL COUNTY
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT
As of January 4, 1999
(Continued)

Note 3. Property Taxes

The real and personal property tax assessments were levied as of January 1, 1998. Property taxes were billed to finance governmental services for the year ended June 30, 1998. Liens are effective when the tax bills become delinquent. The collection period for these assessments was October 30, 1998, through January 4, 1999.

Note 4. Interest Income

The former Estill County Sheriff earned \$1,610 as interest income on 1998 taxes. The former Sheriff distributed the appropriate amount to the school district as required by statute, and the remainder will be used to operate the Sheriff's office.

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COMMENT AND RECOMMENDATION

ESTILL COUNTY
PHILIP BECKNELL, FORMER SHERIFF
COMMENT AND RECOMMENDATION

As of January 4, 1999

STATE LAWS AND REGULATIONS:

Former Sheriff Should Have Entered Into A Written Agreement To Protect Deposits

The former Sheriff maintained deposits with depository institutions insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC). The Sheriff had a bank balance of \$273,532; FDIC insurance of \$100,000; and securities pledged of \$1,171,422 as of January 4, 1999. Even though the former Sheriff obtained pledged securities of \$1,171,422, the pledge was not evidenced by a written agreement. We recommend the Sheriff's office enter into a written agreement with the depository institution. This agreement, signed by both parties, must be sufficient to create an enforceable and perfected security interest in the collateral under Kentucky law. According to federal law, 12 U.S.C.A. § 1823(e), this agreement should be (a) in writing, (b) approved by the board of directors of the depository institution or its loan committee, which approval must be reflected in the minutes of the board or committee, and (c) an official record of the depository institution.

Management's Response:

I understand.

INTERNAL CONTROL - REPORTABLE CONDITIONS:

None

INTERNAL CONTROL - MATERIAL WEAKNESSES:

None

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REPORT ON COMPLIANCE
AND ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL
REPORTING BASED ON AN AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT
PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS



Edward B. Hatchett, Jr.
Auditor of Public Accounts

Honorable Dwight Arvin, County Judge/Executive
Honorable Gary Lynn Freeman, Estill County Sheriff
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Members of the Estill County Fiscal Court

Report On Compliance And On Internal Control
Over Financial Reporting Based On An Audit Of The Financial
Statement Performed In Accordance With Government Auditing Standards

We have audited the former Estill County Sheriff's Settlement - 1998 Taxes as of January 4, 1999, and have issued our report thereon dated June 3, 1999. We conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

Compliance

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the former Estill County Sheriff's Settlement - 1998 Taxes as of January 4, 1999 is free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws and regulations, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and, accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance that are required to be reported under Government Auditing Standards.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit, we considered the former Estill County Sheriff's internal control over financial reporting in order to determine our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statement and not to provide assurance on the internal control over financial reporting. Our consideration of the internal control over financial reporting would not necessarily disclose all matters in the internal control over financial reporting that might be material weaknesses. A material weakness is a condition in which the design or operation of one or more of the internal control components does not reduce to a relatively low level the risk that misstatements in amounts that would be material in relation to the financial statement being audited may occur and not be detected within a timely period by employees in the normal course of performing their assigned functions. We noted no matters involving the internal control over financial reporting and its operation that we consider to be material weaknesses.

Honorable Dwight Arvin, County Judge/Executive
Honorable Gary Lynn Freeman, Estill County Sheriff
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Members of the Estill County Fiscal Court
Report On Compliance And On Internal Control
Over Financial Reporting Based On An Audit Of The Financial
Statement Performed In Accordance With Government Auditing Standards
(Continued)

This report is intended for the information of management. However, this report, upon release by the Auditor of Public Accounts, is a matter of public record and its distribution is not limited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ed Hatchett", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Edward B. Hatchett, Jr.
Auditor of Public Accounts

Audit fieldwork completed -
June 3, 1999

